

# SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/15/05

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### SB 137 (Cropsey)

SB 137 would require a federal criminal background check to be conducted for applicants seeking licensure as forensic polygraph examiners. The bill is necessary to comply with federal law on conducting criminal history checks through the FBI and to ensure that applicants for forensic polygraph examiners licenses continue to be subject to a criminal history check.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 137 [RC 36: 36 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

## FINAL PASSAGE

#### SB 70 (Birkholz)

SB 70 would permit the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, to administer an "Adopt-A-Watershed Program" in which volunteer groups would participate in cleanup, conservation, and pollution prevention activities. Michigan has a long history of citizen involvement in programs that foster environmental education, conservation, and stewardship. Citizen participation in such programs encourages public awareness and provides environmental benefits on a cost-effective basis.

Support: NWF, MML, CWA, MUCC, Trout Unlimited, DEQ, MEC.

- Birkholz 1 (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- Patterson 2 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 70 passed [RC 39: 36 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 72 (Birkholz)

SB 72 would require the board of a school district, local act school district, or intermediate school district, or the board of directors of a public school academy, to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was offered each school day to students in the public schools the board operated.

• SB 72 passed [RC 37: 36 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 223 (Jelinek)

SB 223 would allow an agricultural processing company (with a North American Industry Classification System designation) to claim an apprenticeship credit of up to \$4,000 per apprentice trained by the company in a tax year. This supplements existing credits available for apprentice training in other industries. SFA estimates the cost to be approximately \$1 million annually.

Support: Michigan Farm Bureau, MSU Extension Services, MI Food Processing Association.

• SB 223 passed [RC 38: 30 yes, 6 no].

## THIRD READING

SB 74 (Goschka) SB 134 (Cassis)

<u>SB 74</u> would the Michigan Amber Alert to prohibit a person from intentionally making a false report of the abduction of a child, or intentionally causing a false report of a child abduction to be made, to a peace officer, state or local police agency, 9-1-1 operator, or any other governmental employee or contractor who was authorized to receive the report, knowing the report to be false.

SB 74 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.

<u>SB 134</u> would include a false report of a child abduction in the sentencing guidelines. A violation would be a felony punishable by up to four years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000.

• SB 134 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.

### SB 136 (George)

SB 136 would prohibit a person from issuing or using a false academic credential, or claiming to have an academic credential he or she did not have. The bill also would prescribe civil fines against violators. Specifically, the bill would prohibit a person from knowingly issuing or manufacturing a false academic credential. If the Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth found that a person had violated this provision, the Director could assess against that person a maximum civil fine of \$20,000.

- George 1 (S-4) was defeated.
- George 2 (S-5) was adopted.
- SB 136 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.

#### SB 193 (George)

SB 193 would eliminate the three election divisions in the Eighth Judicial District, which consists of Kalamazoo County and has seven judges. Governor Granholm vetoed an identical bill (SB 1463) last session.

• SB 193 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.

## **HB 4210 (Stakoe)**

HB 4210 would amend current law to clarify that fleeing the scene of an accident resulting in injury or death to a person or damage to property is a crime irrespective of whether the driver knew of the injury, death, or property damage. That is to say, the penalty for a hit-and-run would be predicated on the injuries sustained by the victim, not on what the driver who fled knew or did not know about those injuries. This, many prosecutors contend, was the original intent of the law.

• HB 4210 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.

#### **HB 4233 (HOOD)**

HB 4233 would require applicants for an occupational license required under the act to submit to a criminal records check by the state police and FBI. The bill is necessary to comply with federal law as it relates to conducting criminal records checks through the FBI and to ensure that horse racing-related occupational licensees continue to be subject to a criminal records check.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was defeated.
- Cropsey 2 (S-3) was adopted.
- HB 4233 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

SR 14 (Gilbert) SCR 12 (Gilbert)

Resolutions memorializing Congress to enact highway reauthorization legislation with a level of funding that closes the gap between federal fuel tax dollars paid by Michigan motorists and dollars received to address Michigan's transportation needs.

- SR 14 was adopted [no RC].
- SCR 12 was adopted [no RC].